



# ADDRESSES

OF

MR. WILLIAM ANDERSON

(LIBERAL CANDIDATE FOR EAST PETERBOROUGH)

MR. THOMAS BLEZARD

(MEMBER PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT)

HON. J. R. STRATTON

(PROVINCIAL SECRETARY)

ON

The Local Situation, Liberal Record and the  
Progressive Policy of the Ross Government

AND ITS

Timber Policy and Practice

DELIVERED AT WESTWOOD, NOVEMBER 11TH

1901

# ADDRESSES

OF

## MESSRS. ANDERSON, BLEZARD AND HON. J. R. STRATTON

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The first meeting in East Peterborough in the interests of the candidature of Mr. William Anderson, the Liberal candidate, was held in the town hall, Westwood, on Monday evening. It was in every sense a highly successful gathering. Though the weather was execrable — a pouring rain, and intensely dark, making travel dangerous, the commodious hall was well filled, a number of ladies gracing the gathering with their presence.

Mr. Anderson was most cordially received by the assemblage, and the complimentary references to his worth, fitness for the position of representative, and prospects of success made in their addresses by Hon. Mr. Stratton and Mr. Blezard, showed that the audience were heartily in sympathy with his candidature. Owing to indisposition, Mr. Anderson's remarks were brief, but to the point, the address of Mr. Blezard, characteristically energetic and telling, while the more elaborate speech of Hon. Mr. Stratton dealt fully with public questions, including a comprehensive and lucid treatment of the timber question, giving its history from the beginning, showing the

steps that led up to the adoption of the Liberal Government's policy of home manufacture of lumber, and also showing that the Opposition had done nothing to justify Mr. Whitney's absurd claim that the Opposition deserved credit for the policy of requiring all logs cut on Ontario limits to be manufactured in Canada.

Mr. John Harrison, ex-Councillor, Asphodel, occupied the chair, and introduced the speakers, the first of whom was the Liberal candidate.

### MR. ANDERSON'S REMARKS.

Mr. William Anderson, on being called upon, was received with enthusiastic cordiality. He said that, as his hearers already knew, he had been offered, and had accepted, the nomination of the Liberals of East Peterborough as their candidate to contest the riding for the Local Legislature, at the general elections, which would probably come off early next summer. He said he had not sought the honour of being the candidate, but he felt that he could not but feel that it was his duty to bow to the unanimous wish of the Liberal party as expressed so strongly at the convention at which he was nom-

inated, especially in view of the fact that he was nominated by a gentleman who had so long and creditably represented East Peterborough, and who was, therefore, responsible for his (Mr. Anderson's) presence in the field. He would look to Mr. Blezard to second his nomination by the support which he was sure he would give to secure his election. While he did not set himself up as an orator, or an expert in politics, Mr. Anderson said he believed he had some qualifications that might fit him to be the representative of a riding like the East Riding. East Peterborough was, above everything, an agricultural riding, and its interests as such, made it plain that it could be represented to the best advantage by a farmer—a practical farmer. It had been represented by Mr. Blezard for nearly twenty-five years, and nobody could assert that the interests of East Peterborough had not been as well, if not better, looked after by a plain farmer like Mr. Blezard, than they would have been by a professional gentleman or a professional politician. (Hear, hear.) The interests of East Peterborough were almost entirely tied up with and connected with the farm, and he (Mr. Anderson) being a farmer like the great mass of the electors, felt that he need not make any apology for asking the votes and support of his fellow farmers to make him their representative. As Mr. Blezard's interests had been, so

#### **His Interests Were the Same**

as theirs. Like most of his hearers, he was born and raised upon the farm, and expected to die on the farm. In Ontario, especially, it was no disgrace or discredit to a man to be a farmer, for it was very gratifying to us as farmers, to know that this province was as advanced in ag-

riculture, if not more so, than any state of the American Union, or any country in the world. This was shown wherever this province entered into competition with other countries as at the World's Fair at Chicago, and the Pan-American Exhibition at Buffalo—Ontario took the cream of the prize list in dairying, stock and poultry. At Buffalo, out of \$2300 paid in prizes for poultry, Ontario took \$1100, and the whole of the United States \$1200. (Applause.) And Ontario won the biggest prizes in our best market, the British market. Our cheese and butter and bacon and fruit had the lead there, and brought the best prices. Mr. Anderson said he knew of no province which was so advanced in agriculture, no province which had a better financial standing, better laws, or was generally as prosperous and enterprising as Ontario. While this was no doubt largely owing to the character of its farming population, who were thrifty and industrious, and composed about seven-tenths of the whole population, it was, he felt, but fair, to give a large share to the excellent government and management that had been given to the province for the past thirty years. (Applause.) Mr. Anderson said he had no intention of making a speech. He was a plain man, and had

#### **Always Tried to do His Duty**

faithfully. He had never been an extreme man, and he was thankful that his fellow citizens had found him worthy of trust, as, he might say, was shown by the fact that he had so long been honoured with a representative position in his native township. He had been a municipal representative—as councillor, reeve, or warden—for as many years as Mr. Blezard had been in the legis-

lature. To be so long honoured by his fellow citizens was, he felt he might say without boasting, a proof that he had some qualifications for serving the public, and that he had shown some faithfulness in discharging his duty as a municipal representative. He had always tried to do what he felt to be right, and if chosen as their representative, he would continue on the same line. While every act of his life as a municipal councillor, or otherwise, might not have been approved, his course had been guided by an honest desire to do what was right, and in the interests of those who had trusted him. Mr. Anderson concluded by thanking his hearers for the hearty and encouraging reception they had given him and excusing himself from further speaking on the ground of indisposition and the fact that Hon. Mr. Stratton and Mr. Blezard would deal with public questions more in detail, he resumed his seat amidst very hearty applause.

#### MR. BLEZARD'S ADDRESS.

Mr. T. Blezard, M. P. P. who was the next speaker was received, on rising to address the meeting, with very hearty cheers. He said he was glad to see so large a meeting of the electors, and a meeting which was so much in earnest. It argued well for the success of Mr. Anderson to see the hall so well filled on such a night with electors supporting that gentleman. He felt a very warm interest in Mr. Anderson's success. He (Mr. Blezard) had nominated him, not altogether as a candidate, but as his successor in representing East Peterborough, for he was sure he would be elected. He, for one, would work hard to bring about his election, and he felt that he would be heartily helped by the

electors of East Peterborough. (Hear, hear.) He, (Mr. Blezard) had been a Liberal all his life, and for twenty-three years he had been the Liberal representative of East Peterborough in support of the best all-round Government this, or any country, could have. (Applause.) He had noticed in the Toronto World and other Conservative papers, attempts to show that he (Mr. Blezard) had been pushed aside, and that Hon. Mr. Stratton had used his influence to have him "turned down" at the Norwood Convention where he had nominated Mr. Anderson. This was not so. He had no doubt, Mr. Blezard said, that if he had wished to have the nomination of the Liberal party, he could have had it unanimously. (Hear, hear, and applause.) The Convention at Norwood was conducted just as he had wanted it to be conducted. He had stated eight years ago that he did not want to be a candidate, and four years ago the nomination was, in a way, forced upon him, and it was only his loyalty to the Liberal party which had so kindly supported him for so many years that made him consent to run. It was well known of late that he wished to retire from politics. He had

#### Served the Riding a Long Time.

and, not being as young as he used to be he looked for a little rest, and, for some time, to look after his private affairs, which a man must sacrifice to a certain extent if he faithfully discharged his duty as a member, which he had tried to do. It was well known to his friends in the House last session (and he was glad to say he had many, both Liberal and Conservative) that it was his intention to retire from politics at the end of the present term. He had plainly and distinctly stated at

the Norwood Convention, before a nomination was made, that he would not be a candidate again; and he showed that he was in earnest by nominating Mr. Anderson to be his successor, which he was sure to be. (Applause.) He had no fear if he had wanted to run that the Liberals would not have given him the nomination, but that was what he wanted to avoid, for the reasons he had given. As before remarked, he had been the Liberal representative for a long time, and he felt that he had done, at least he had tried to do, his share in promoting the interests of East Peterborough and the Province. Ever since Mr. Stratton had entered Parliament they had worked harmoniously together. They had helped each other, and he was glad to state there publicly that he had never asked Mr. Stratton, either as a private member or a Cabinet Minister, to promote the interests of East Peterborough, that he had not readily and willingly done so to the extent of his ability. Mr. Blezard said that in the past twenty-five years he never had applied to the Government for anything that had not been fairly dealt with. This was true before Mr. Stratton became a member of the Government, and he knew, and they all knew, that it was all the more true since he became a Cabinet Minister. They all knew Mr. Stratton; he had been raised amongst them and was a resident of the county and one of the

#### **Most Prominent and Hard Working**

and able members of the Government, and he (Mr. Blezard) was sure they would not send to Parliament a representative to oppose a Government which had done so much for Ontario, and which had for one of its members, in the person of Mr. Stratton, a resident of the county. (Applause.)

Mr. Blezard went on to point out that Mr. Stratton had the heaviest department of the Government—not only the largest spending department, but the one with more work for its minister than any other department in the Government. And his work was well done. The public institutions under Mr. Stratton's charge were managed with great ability and success, and economically. They were doing better work than ever before. They were managed in a way to defy criticism, either on the floor of the House or outside it. He (Mr. Blezard) had visited the institutions and could testify of his own knowledge to the excellent way in which they were run. There was not a member of the Cabinet doing as much work as Mr. Stratton, and the electors of East Peterborough should send Mr. Anderson as a supporter of a Government that had a resident of the County as one of its members. Although many Conservatives in this riding and some others were showing a great deal of sympathy with him (Mr. Blezard) because they said he had been "turned down," he did not need to thank them for this bogus sympathy. He was not turned down, and they all knew him too well to believe that any man could turn him down without his making it hot for anyone trying such a game. (Laughter.) He had not been "turned down" by Mr. Stratton or anyone else. He had retired, or would retire at the close of the next Parliament, of his own free will and accord, and he had nominated Mr. Anderson, whom they were going to elect. (Applause.) Mr. Anderson was just the kind of man East Peterborough wanted to represent it, just such a man as they wanted more of in the Legislature. He was an honest man, a man of strong common



sense, and good business ability. He had had plenty of experience in municipal matters. He had been a member of the Township Council for years, a member of the County Council for years, and a Warden of the County. He had never neglected any of his duties, in the Township or County Councils, and he believed that he would be just as faithful in attending to his parliamentary duties. Mr. Anderson's opponent, Dr. Ford, was a good citizen and a good doctor, but he had never taken an active part in local matters, and had no experience. They had plenty of doctors and lawyers in the House and to spare. He had no hard feelings against them; they were a necessary evil, and

#### **All Right in Their Place.**

but they were men they did not want to have anything to do with till they had to. What a riding of farmers like East Peterborough wanted was a farmer for a representative, especially a farmer as successful and practical as Mr. Anderson, and a farmer who has had a large experience in municipal matters. Mr. Anderson has served his apprenticeship, and had all his life worked with and for farmers, and knew their wants and had a personal interest in seeing them properly looked after. Mr. Blezard said he had been in the House twenty-three years, and he knew the class of members who did the best work. He knew that the orators of the House the men that did all the talking, were not the best workers or the best qualified to work in Committee, where the great bulk of the work was to be done, and that was where the fight was put up. When he went into the House first his little experience in municipal matters, and it was very little compared to Mr.

Anderson's, had given him an insight he could turn to good account. He knew, as Mr. Anderson would know, when anything was brought up that would be harmful to the interests of the farmer in a municipal sense or in other ways, and he would be there to fight for these rights, and he would know what he was talking about. Would a doctor or a lawyer who never had any municipal experience or who knew or cared little about farming be as good a man for their member as a practical farmer, with a quarter of a century's experience in municipal matters? This was a farmer's riding, and a good farmer was the representative it wanted. We only sent for a doctor when we were sick, and East Peterborough was not sick enough for that, at least it was not sick of him (Mr. Blezard) even though Dr. Ford and other good Conservatives

#### **Were Shedding Crocodile Tears.**

because he was going out of politics—because he had not received the nomination he did not want. They need not waste any sympathy on him. He was all right; he was retiring from politics and had nominated his successor in the person of Mr. Anderson, but those who said he had been side-tracked would find, before this contest was over that there was plenty of fight in him yet. Dr. Ford and his Conservative friends who were sympathizing with him (Mr. Blezard) because he was "turned down," would need all the sympathy for themselves when Mr. Anderson turned them down next June, which he was sure to do if he (Mr. Blezard) in co-operation with the electors could bring it about. (Applause.) He felt, he was sure, that he would be elected, for he had no fear that the farmers of East

Peterborough would go back on a fellow farmer who was not only well qualified to represent their interest as far as he was concerned himself, but also because he was a supporter of a good Government, which no talent the Conservatives had in sight could improve upon. (Applause.) Mr. Whitney, the Leader of the Opposition, was a fairly good all-round man, as a man, and he could be a useful back-seat member, but he (Mr. Blezard) did not think he had the head to be a leader of a Government. At Havelock Mr. Whitney said he had a great policy for the country, but he was afraid to mention it for fear Mr. Ross or Mr. Stratton would steal it. That was not the right way. If Mr. Whitney had something locked up in his brain that would benefit the Province, he should let it be known, and not try to put his personal advantage or the advantage of his party before that of the Province. We hear a great deal of New Ontario, but we would not have had a New Ontario if it had not been for Sir Oliver Mowat, who saved it when the Conservatives were trying to rob the people of 100,000 square miles, which was and would continue relieving the people of a great deal of local taxation. We have had good Governments in the past, but never one so progressive as the one we have to-day. (Applause.)

#### **HON. MR. STRATTON'S SPEECH.**

Hon. Mr. Stratton, on rising to address the gathering, was received by a very hearty demonstration of applause. He said it must be very gratifying to Mr. Anderson and, incidentally, a tribute to the popularity of Mr. Blezard, to have such a large and enthusiastic audience present at the opening meeting of his campaign. The speaker had once before, six or seven years ago, spoken in

Westwood. It was at that time in a Dominion election contest, but the gathering to-night was very much larger, especially so for such extremely bad weather, and as many were from a distance, it showed that the Liberals of East Peterborough were in earnest in promoting Mr. Anderson's candidature. If the comparative handful at the meeting in 1896, was followed by a Liberal victory, this much larger gathering was a certain and gratifying augury of success in the case of Mr. Anderson, the candidate of the Liberal party. (Applause.) This augury of success was greatly strengthened by the presence of the ladies, whom the speaker was glad to see well represented there that night. No matter how few ladies were present, they were sure to be well represented, and this was doubly so when they were out in force. Whatever side the ladies took up was sure to win. Those who were married knew that was the case in domestic matters, and it was generally true in politics. That was the first opportunity he (Mr. Stratton) had had of addressing a public meeting in the East Riding since he became a member of the Ontario Government, and it was especially gratifying to him on the occasion of such a splendid beginning of a campaign, which he firmly believed would result in the triumphant return of the Government candidate and of the Government. (Applause.) For there was no doubt that East Peterborough would contribute to this success by the election of Mr. Anderson. He was much

#### **Pleased With Mr. Anderson's Address.**

Though he did not claim to be an orator, he showed that he could speak to the point, and, what was better, he was a man of action, a man of experience in municipal life, a man



of unstained reputation, founded upon honourable principles carried into his every day life. He was a solid man, highly esteemed in the community, and in all respects just such a man as a rural constituency like East Peterborough needed to look after its interests. He could endorse every word in praise of Mr. Anderson which Mr. Blezard had uttered. His long experience in municipal life fitted him for being a useful member of the Legislature; and he was sure that having spent so many years in excellent and satisfactory municipal life, he could give excellent service as the representative of East Peterborough. His large and varied experience in municipal matters could have no other effect than making him a most useful member of the House. If the electors took advantage of the opportunity of electing Mr. Anderson, which he felt sure they would do, (hear, hear,) they would ensure a continuation of the excellent representation they had had at the hands of Mr. Blezard for nearly a quarter of a century. (Applause.) Mr. Blezard's experience had been a good deal like what Mr. Anderson's would be. Like Mr. Anderson, he entered public life with a valuable municipal experience. He had been a plain farmer, yet the event had proved that he had made one of the most useful members that had ever sat in the House. (Applause.) He had given

#### **Long and Faithful Service,**

and had earned the rest which for many years he had been anxious to take. In this connection, Mr. Stratton stated that the statements made by the Conservative press could not be believed. The Mail, Toronto Telegram, and the Review, said that Mr. Blezard was "turned down." Which should know best—Mr. Blezard, himself, or these Con-

servative newspapers, which feeling the weakness of the Conservative cause, in East Peterborough especially, must resort to means like this to try to create dissension in the Liberal party. It was an unfortunate condition that newspapers should, to accomplish so trifling a party advantage, resort to wilful and malicious misrepresentation of public men. But this charge, which had been repeated and made use of at Havelock by Mr. Whitney and Mr. Ford, contained as much truth, and no more, than the charges made against the Ontario Government on that occasion by those gentlemen.

These, however, were not the matters that they were there that evening to discuss. They were of minor importance to the questions which are and will be really at issue in the coming contest — questions that deserved the careful and dispassionate consideration of the electors, for, upon the

#### **Public Response to These Questions,**

the future Government, the future progress and interests of this great province would depend. This was not entirely, or in any important sense, a personal contest between Mr. Anderson and Dr. Ford, who were both estimable citizens. But it was the decision of a far more important question—and that was whether Premier Ross and his Government were to be given an opportunity to continue and carry out the policy of development which they had set themselves to work out in the interests of the country—to give an administration and apply a policy that would still further advance this province, and emphasize more strongly the position she now occupies as the most advanced, best governed and best administered province or state in the world. (Applause.) And he believ-

lieved the Government was stronger to-day in progressive policy and in the estimation of the people. Mr. Whitney at Havelock, said the Government should be turned out, and would be — "they could not stem the tide." The Government did not need to stem the tide, they only needed to sail with the tide of public opinion, which was so strongly in their favour. Since Hon. Mr. Ross took office there had been some half-dozen bye-elections, and the Government candidates were either elected by acclamation or by large or increased majorities, something that did not look as if they were struggling against an adverse tide. One of the most important matters to consider was what is the state of the finances of the province, whether the Liberals after thirty years of government, had left us a satisfactory financial standing. Mr. Whitney stated at Havelock, that "once the finances were placed in proper condition, they (the Conservative party) would be able to deal with the development of the material resources and the educational policy as they should be dealt with. Hence the question of the finances was of the most importance." "Now," said Mr. Stratton, "what is

#### **The Financial Condition**

of the province?" Mr. Whitney said at Havelock that the Government had "departed from the wholesome rule of the late Sandfield Macdonald to keep the expenditures within the revenue." The surplus that Sandfield Macdonald left on retiring from power had been so often dealt with that it seemed a waste of time to further refer to it. But, Mr. Stratton said, he was never unwilling to discuss this matter, because the more it was done the more it redounded to the credit of the financial man-

agement of the Liberal Government. True, it had been spent, but how? As a matter of fact, Sandfield Macdonald left no surplus, that is, if one deducted from it the obligations which were left his successors to meet. They had practically pledged the whole of the surplus, \$3,800,000, and more, to the work of public improvement in the people's interest. That had been expended, and many millions more, in services of public utility, and neither Mr. Whitney nor any of his followers could point to a single expenditure in connection with this surplus, or other provincial funds, that had not been well made. One of the first acts of Sir Oliver Mowat when he came into power was to devote three and a half millions to the settlement of the Municipal Loan Fund, and of this distribution the County of Peterborough got nearly \$50,000 — \$47,832.12. And we had in this county school houses and township halls that had been erected by the help of these moneys. Mr. Whitney charged the Government with breaking Sandfield Macdonald's rule to keep the expenditure within the revenue. This was a charge that

#### **Could not be Sustained**

by any honest argument. When our public buildings were being erected it is true that there were odd years when our revenue did not quite meet the expenditure. That was to be expected. But with few exceptions, the annual receipts have been larger than the expenditure. So much has this been the case, that on the 27th of last August there was to the credit of the province in the banks, in cash, \$1,263,471.00. If the expenditure had exceeded the receipts, this cash would not have been in the bank. Mr. Whitney's broad and general charge is not quite fair, but as fair

as the arguments he is accustomed to present. Now a fair way for the Opposition to criticize the financial management of the province would be to point out where out of the 107 millions of dollars spent since Confederation, there had been waste, or extravagance, or inadequate value received. General rash assertions did not count — it was not argument. We say it is true that the expenditure of the province has increased since 1872, but we show the people, whose servants we are, how this money has been expended. If we took the past ten years — from 1890 to and including 1899 — we shall find the following expenditure:

1890	.....	.....	...	\$3,896,324	38
1891	.....	.....	...	4,163,563	07
1892	.....	.....	...	4,068,951	68
1893	.....	.....	...	3,907,145	32
1894	.....	.....	...	3,842,505	23
1895	.....	.....	...	3,758,559	43
1896	.....	.....	...	3,703,375	74
1897	.....	.....	...	3,767,675	70
1898	.....	.....	...	3,803,081	38
1899	.....	.....	...	3,710,420	81

And in 1900 the expenditure was \$3,748,159.41. From 1890, it would be observed, till 1900, there had been

### A Decreased Expenditure

until last year, when the Government undertook to develop New Ontario. Now, how had this money been annually expended? Take last year; of the three and three-quarters millions expended, there was spent for:

Public Institutions maintenance...	\$828,201	34
Education...	758,466	26
Agriculture...	209,168	66
Hospitals and Charities ...	184,898	52
Public Buildings...	163,631	10
Colonization Roads...	133,926	10
Immigration...	6,257	48
Administration of Justice.....	427,854	72
Legislation...	142,773	45
Civil Government...	265,347	53
Miscellaneous...	234,008	70
Public Works...	25,944	01
Repairs and Maintenance, Public Buildings...	89,040	34

These were the principal items of

expenditure, and Mr. Whitney and Mr. St. John did not point out where-  
in they would reduce the expenditure  
under any of these headings. The  
fact is that they could not do so  
without crippling the public service.  
While the expenditure had been in-  
creased, it had been increased in lea-  
sening the burdens the people would  
otherwise have had to bear. Was  
it, Mr. Stratton said, extravagance,  
because we expended from 1872 to  
1900 seventeen million dollars to as-  
sist in the education of the children  
of the province? Every year the  
province gave to every county a  
grant for Public, Separate, High  
School and Collegiate Institute pur-  
poses, and every dollar paid by the  
Government represented a dollar

### Less of Local Taxation.

(Applause.) Would Mr. Whitney change that policy?

The grant for Education in 1872 was only \$421,703; last year it was \$758,456.26, or an amount of \$337,000 per year, or over \$1000 more for every working day, than in 1872. This was an increase of expenditure; but the people got the benefit of it directly. Over eighteen million dollars had been expended for public institution maintenance. But that was no fault of the Government. There was more work to be done—an increasingly large number of unfortunates to be cared for. We had only two asylums in 1871; now we had eight. There were only about 1000 patients in 1871; now there were nearly 6000. In 1871 the expenditure was \$276,662; in 1901 the estimated expenditure was \$840,000—nearly half a million dollars more than in 1872. Was it a sign of extravagance or bad management that, while the number of patients had increased over five fold the expenses were less than three

times as great? There was more effective service and better work done. Patients were better cared for, and the ratio of patients discharged as cured was over forty per cent. of the admissions. While at the same time the cost per head of maintenance of patients, which was \$134.53 in 1872, was now \$122.19. Then we had expended nearly five millions for agriculture — an increase from \$87,000 in 1873, to \$202,842 in 1901. And these are two of the most important matters we had to deal with, Education and Agriculture. It was needless to say that both are in a

#### Healthy and Thrifty Condition.

The people of Ontario were the best educated people on the continent, and the most progressive, skilful and successful farmers in the world. (Applause.) Any person who travelled in other provinces or states could easily see for himself evidences of the agricultural superiority of this province. And in competitive exhibits of live stock at the great expositions, Canada took a leading position, and as this province was the largest and most advanced province, of the several provinces of Confederation, her share in Canadian agricultural triumphs was the lion's share. We all remember the splendid record Canada achieved at the World's Fair, Chicago, but to come down to date the triumphs were greater still. At the Pan-American Exposition, at Buffalo, just closed, the stock raisers of the Dominion captured more prizes than all the other exhibitors from two continents put together. (Applause.) They would be interested in a comparative summary of the cash prize winnings of the United States, with the prize winnings of Canada, at the Pan-American Exposition:

	U.S.	Canada.
Cattle ... ..	\$3,813 40	\$3,111 60
Sheep ... ..	1,390 62	2,152 50
Swine ... ..	165 00	377 50
Poultry... ..	1,200 00	1,100 00
Total of United States...	\$6,569 02	
Total of Canada...		6,741 60

Thus they saw that Canada, with a population of less than six millions, at this great exposition took nearly \$200 more of cash prizes in the lines mentioned, than the whole of the United States, with a population of seventy-five millions. (Hear, hear.) But the records of Ontario alone, in Butter and Cheese the past year was something to be proud of. This province last year sold thirteen million dollars worth of cheese — nearly a million dollars increase over last year, and almost \$2.50 for every man, woman and child in the province. (Applause.) Ontario also sold last year butter to the value of \$1,819,000, also a handsome increase over the preceding year. Thus we had,

#### Distributed Among the Farmers

of Ontario, the large sum of \$14,480,000 for butter and cheese, showing that the province occupied a position of agricultural advancement of which we might justly be proud, and showing also that the efforts of the Government to promote a profit-bringing knowledge of agriculture in all its branches, had been attended with marked success. (Applause.)

We gave annually about \$200,000 to Hospitals and Charities. All told, nearly three and a half million had been devoted to these purposes since 1872. The sick must be cared for. Did Mr. Whitney wish to reduce the amount voted for Hospitals and Charities? If he did so, he would have to reduce or cut off the local grants. Would he reduce or cut off the amount of \$1,410.10, the sum paid last year to the Nicholls Hospi-

tal, or reduce or cut off the sum of \$1,171.83 given to St. Joseph's Hospital, or similarly treat the grant of \$426.03 to the Peterborough Protestant Home, or the grant of \$449.39 to the House of Providence, Peterborough. Did not these institutions come to the councils and solicit grants? and if these grants were given, they would have to be larger if these Government grants were withdrawn. Mr. Whitney complained of extravagant expenditure. If there were any extravagance it was in reducing the burdens of the people, (applause,) and the people would not complain of this, for the provincial funds were not derived from direct taxation. The municipalities were aided to that extent. We had given over three and a half millions for Colonization Roads, have built nearly 6000 miles, repaired 13,000 miles, and built 100,000 lineal feet of bridges, with the result that in the outlying districts to-day instead of 15,000 of population, as in 1871, there were now nearly 150,000 people. There had been expended in East Peterborough alone, \$74,071.66. Are not the people of Burleigh Anstruther, Chandos, Belmont and Methuen, Dummer, Douro, Asphodel and Otonabee the better for this expenditure? The Government dealt with public funds on the principle that it was not their money, but

#### **It was the People's Money**

and it should be expended in the people's interests. (Hear, hear.) And last year a grant of \$3,500 was given to the County to assist in the construction of the Chemong Lake Bridge, which sum would otherwise have had to be levied on the ratepayers. Was not the grant to the Chemong Bridge in the direct interest of the ratepayers, saving them so much direct taxation? Did not

the same apply to the grant to the Bensfort Bridge two or three years ago, and to the grant this year to the Kinmount Bridge? If the increased expenditure the Opposition complained of was due to providing or helping to provide public conveniences, and thus relieve the treasury of the county or township, and thus directly relieve the ratepayer, was not that perfectly justifiable? It was the people's money that was being spent, and no matter how much was spent, as long as it benefits the people, the people had no reason to complain, for not a cent of Provincial funds was raised by direct taxation. The people rather enjoyed getting the benefit of money spent which did not come from their own pockets. (Applause.)

In the past thirty years there had been expended over ten millions of dollars for Public Works and Public Buildings, and it was to be noted that all our Public Buildings had been erected without borrowing one cent of money, something that no other province or country had done. Over five millions of this had been spent for asylum and reformatory purposes alone, and about seven millions of dollars for railway aid. We had helped to build 2126 miles of railway out of 5256 miles built—more than would reach across the ocean. That would mean seven parallel lines from Toronto to Montreal and four lines from Windsor to Montreal. What railway had we aided that shouldn't have been aided? In these items alone there is a grand total of over seventy-five millions, which is practically an uncontrollable expenditure.

#### **All Lessening Taxation and Helping the People.**

Mr. Stratton asked where was the railway or the road that should not

have been built? Where was the railway that the people would be willing to do away with? Where was the Public Work that was not required? Where was the Public Building not utilized? From what hospital or charitable institution would you cut off the small grant it gets? Where are patients in public institutions more economically or better maintained than in our institutions? Perhaps Mr. Whitney wants, as he puts it, to get the finances in a proper condition by compelling municipalities to maintain their insane, which are now cared for by the Province, or does he wish to unload the care of the insane now assumed by the Province upon the home, or, as is done in some of the other provinces, on the nearest relative? Does he desire the grants to be withdrawn from all the Agricultural Associations? Does he wish the expense of the Administration of Justice to be borne by the counties, instead of being shared by the Government? Does he want the High School, Public School and Separate School grants withdrawn? By what mysterious way does he propose to reduce the expenditure? The County of Peterborough had received from the Ontario Government from 1871 to 1900, inclusive, not taking the present year into account, the large sum of \$844,976.66 for the following services, showing

#### The Amount of Benefit

derived by County of Peterborough from 1871 to 1900, inclusive:

Maintenance of Peterborough patients in Insane Asylums...	14,205 30
Maintenance of prisoners in Central Prison ... ..	14,205 30
Maintenance and Education of boys sent to Reformatory...	12,383 53
Education and care of blind children... ..	13,414 95
Education and care of deaf and dumb children... ..	15,409 10

Direct Grants to Public, Separate and High Schools ... ..	206,091 00
Aid to Public Libraries ... ..	13,304 52
Grants to Agricultural Societies... ..	44,171 00
To assist Administration of Justice... ..	52,495 91
Aid to Hospitals and Charities:	
Nicholls Hospital, started in 1890... ..	19,234 74
St. Joseph's Hospital started in 1892... ..	9,595 35
Protestant Home, started in 1886... ..	6,112 78
House of Providence, started in 1890... ..	5,308 76
Aid to Railways:—	
Cobourg, Peterborough and Marmora Railway... ..	18,740 00
Grand Junction Railway.....	56,568 00
Paid under Surplus Distribution... ..	47,832 12
Grants to Colonization Roads East and West Peterborough	141,928 21
	<hr/>
	\$844,973 66

Here we had nearly a million of dollars paid to the County of Peterborough directly from the Provincial treasury. (Applause.) What had been done for Peterborough had been done in proportion for every county in the province. If only half the amount had been expended in this way, leaving the counties to pay the balance, we might have had the counties burdened with debt, or the tax payer poorer, and might have had a big surplus in the treasury. The Opposition say that we have squandered the money. Where was this money squandered? Did Mr. Whitney, or can Mr. Whitney, show what has been squandered in East Peterborough, or what has been spent that was not directly in the people's interests? Reckless assertion didn't convince a jury; there must be evidence, and the people in this case are the jury, and Mr. Whitney must bring something more than strong language before he can hope to get a verdict in his favour. (Applause.) Let us take, said Mr. Stratton, the expenditure per head, of the various provinces, and see how we stand. For every man, woman and child



there is spent in the following provinces the following sums :

Prince Edward Island.....	\$2 82
British Columbia.....	9 88
Manitoba.....	4 58
New Brunswick.....	2 47
Nova Scotia.....	2 04
Quebec.....	2 74
Ontario.....	1 74

So that here was further proof that Ontario had

#### **First-Class Financial Management.**

A further contrast was submitted: Quebec paid every year a million and a half dollars as interest on the money she owed. Ontario received every year \$314,000 of interest on moneys invested. Quebec had a gross debt of thirty-five millions. Ontario, after liquidating every dollar of railway certificates and annuities, meeting every outstanding obligation, would have, if the affairs of the province were handed over tomorrow, two and a half million dollars of a surplus. (Applause.) British Columbia had a debt of seven and a half millions; Nova Scotia, nearly four millions; New Brunswick over three millions; Manitoba nearly six millions. Every city and town in the Dominion had a debt, except Ontario and no public servants in any country or any age had expended the money of the people to better advantage than the Government of Ontario. (Applause.) Ontario was in a class by herself in the matter of freedom from debt. If you want, Mr. Stratton said, to get her into the congenial company of the other provinces in this respect, turn our affairs over to Mr. Whitney, and rest assured that in less than five years Ontario won't be lonesome any longer, and will be able to boast of her debt as she now can boast of her surplus. (Applause.) We had a sample of what the Opposition would do. They wanted to give away

our license revenue, from which we received last year \$354,000; they opposed succession duties, from which last year we obtained \$226,676. They have always been

#### **Opposed to Succession Duties.**

from which we have derived a million and a half dollars of revenue. They opposed the Revenue Bill, from which the province got last year \$229,774. We received from these three sources alone nearly three and a quarter of a million last year, nearly enough to pay the annual provincial appropriation for Education. Would Mr. Whitney abolish these, as he had opposed them? Is that the way he would "get our finances right?" How is he going to cut off the revenue and reduce the expenditure at the same time? If he reduced the expenditure he would have to touch the people hard, for about nine-tenths of the provincial expenditure represented money returned to the people to save or lessen their local taxation. But those who knew Mr. Whitney knew that he talked very largely for effect.

#### **THE TIMBER QUESTION AND POLICY**

The Opposition insistently and, as the facts existed, unreasonably, complained of the management of the Crown domain by the Liberal Government. The province, Mr. Stratton said, had received from Woods and Forests twenty-six or twenty-seven millions of dollars, and the province had expended upon public buildings and the maintenance of unfortunates in our asylums a sum equal to, or rather a little larger, than the revenue from forests. It was a continual cry that the timber resources of the country were not judiciously handled. Before considering that question, it might be pertinent to inquire if the Conservative

party would do any better. Indeed, judging by the past, they would do much worse. When the Conservatives were trying, but prevented by Sir Oliver Mowat, to give away to Quebec and Manitoba 100,000 square miles of territory belonging to Ontario, to get a little "rake off" before the spoil was divided, the Conservative Government of the Dominion gave away—it couldn't be called sold—to the faithful of the party, members of Parliament and party workers, 50,000 square miles of timber land at less than one cent an acre, and amongst those getting a slice was Mr. William Broder, a bosom friend and political chum of Mr. Whitney. Could that be called judiciously handling our timber resources? To describe these two transactions required rather strong language, and Mr. Whitney could not complain if his own words were borrowed to characterize these two "deals"—as the 'most phenomenal steal, the most heinous crime, and the greatest attempt at public robbery, ever attempted in this or any other country."

#### Our Crown Lands.

There was no feature of the Liberal Government which had been more persistently and unreasonably assailed than its relation to the Crown Lands—more especially its timber policy. They had been accused of wastefulness, of extravagance, of squandering the Provincial resources, of spending their capital. There was no single Department which had been more judiciously and cautiously administered with an eye both to the present and future requirements of the people. The management of the timber resources of the Province of Ontario would challenge comparison with that of any state or province on the continent, as

to the completeness with which the public interests were safeguarded, and the extent of the revenue secured in proportion to the privileges granted to the public.

The policy of the Government as regarded the forests had been as in other departments, a progressive policy. It had been developed step by step as conditions changed and new exigencies arose. They owed no thanks to the Opposition, who had not contributed anything in the way of constructive suggestions. Intricate problems had frequently arisen owing to the advance of settlement, to international relations and to the growth of the market, and the possible danger of the exhaustion of the supply, but the Government had boldly faced and settled them all.

The accusation of the reckless destruction of the forests was an old one. It was a favourite Opposition cry a generation ago. Every timber sale was greeted with the outcry, "Oh, you are devastating the forests; you are living on your capital." The latter expression had become one of the stock Opposition cries. It was heard regularly every session. Now what was the "capital" of a community but its productive capacity? The land of by far the greater proportion of settled Ontario and of a considerable area of New Ontario, as everyone knew,

#### Could be Turned to Better Account

in raising wheat and cattle, cheese and butter, than by letting it remain timbered. So long as the soil was fit for agriculture and the settler was waiting to follow up the lumberman, making the country many times more productive than before, they were surely husbanding and increasing the real "capital" of the country by its clearance.

But there was another point over-

looked by the critics of the Government, viz., that, with the extension of settlement and the construction of pioneer railways, the danger of extensive losses of standing timber by fire was greatly increased. Large regions had in times past been devastated by these visitations. Fire was a far greater cause of destruction than the lumberman's axe. Repeated conflagrations moreover often destroyed the power of the forest to reproduce itself. Wherever settlement was advancing and the land was fit for agriculture, it was the prudent and proper course to realize the value of the timber as quickly as possible. Moreover, the standing timber was subject to natural decay. To attempt to conserve the forest by excluding the lumbermen was simply to allow the maturing crop to go to waste—to permit your "capital" to stand idle, and deteriorate.

As the wave of civilization rolled northward, a region was reached which was not well adapted for agricultural purposes. Large areas were sterile, rough and broken. The land produced timber, and that being destroyed, it was not fitted to produce anything else of value. Plainly an entirely different policy was demanded from that pursued in dealing with agricultural lands. Scientific research had demonstrated the necessity of keeping a certain proportion of the land permanently in timber in order to promote equable rainfall and to thus preserve climatic conditions favourable to agriculture. Great advances had been made of late years in the science of forestry as applicable to the economic conditions prevailing on this continent. But it took some time to popularize the idea. Those who had been accustomed to regard the

forest as an enemy to be overcome and the timber supply as practically without an end, were slow to realize the need of forest preservation. The fact that the region immediately to the north of the settled area was not only comparatively infertile, but was also the source of many streams and rivers pointed to the desirability of maintaining large portions of it as

#### **Permanent Forest Reserves.**

The lands being withheld from settlement and protected against fire, will furnish a source from which a supply of timber can be steadily drawn under conditions which will allow of the crop being reproduced. On this question the Government has not been merely abreast of public opinion—they had been a long distance in advance of it. They might fairly be said to have created it. For eighteen years they had been educating the public on the subject. The appropriations necessary to maintain the Bureau of Forestry had been opposed by the very men, including Mr. Whitney, the leader of Opposition, who had protested against timber sales as wasteful and destructive. Their idea of "preserving the capital" of the Province was simply to shut out the lumbermen and leave the trees to mature and decay—or more probably, go up in smoke, and sink down in ashes.

As a result of investigations of the Forestry Bureau, acting in co-operation with practical lumbermen, forest reserves had been established. It was altogether a new departure. The Government had not proceeded rashly or hastily. They had advanced step by step, with due regard to all interests concerned, whether of the public, the settler, or the lumberman. They had begun in 1893 by setting aside Algonquin Park, com-

prising 1,100,000 acres. Another reserve of 80,000 acres was afterwards set aside in the Counties of Addington and Frontenac; then an area of 40,000 acres near Port Arthur, and last year the pine bearing region around Lake Temagami, covering 1,400,000 acres had been constituted a reserve, making in all upwards of two million and a half acres. Other areas, which might on survey be found suited for the purpose, might be added to the list under the authority given to the Government by the

#### **Forest Reserves Act of 1893.**

In the United States this question had been forced upon the national and state governments by popular agitation. Influential societies and prominent newspapers took the matter up and urged it on the attention of legislators. In Ontario the Liberal Government led the movement. They grappled with the problem of their own accord, and created the public sentiment necessary to enable them to carry out their views. Only a short time ago widespread misconceptions on the subject prevailed. It was the general popular belief that the pine forest would not reproduce itself—that when the original growth was once removed, nothing but inferior kinds of timber would succeed it. This impression was shared even by experienced lumbermen. The latter, consequently, sought to clear off their limits as quickly as possible without looking forward to a fresh growth as a future asset. It had now been clearly established and was generally understood, that the first growth of pine when cleared away, would be succeeded by another, if due care was taken to keep out fire. In short, it had been shown that it was possible and profitable to treat the forest like a farm, reaping periodical crops of the

mature timber, and preserving the conditions favourable to the growth of another timber harvest.

The whole lumbering industry was being put upon a more stable and permanent basis. The establishment of the system of fire-rangings in 1885 and its subsequent extension had greatly lessened the danger of loss from fire. The confidence and co-operation of the lumbermen had been secured. They were induced to see that, with proper precautions against forest fires, their interests were best served, not by wholesale and indiscriminate cutting, but by taking out the larger timber and letting the younger trees attain maturity.

The Opposition had had no share in shaping the policy of the Government on this question. They had done nothing but shriek hysterically, "Woodman, spare that tree," whenever the Government held a timber sale. There would be about as much sense in crying "Farmer, spare that wheat," when harvest time came.

#### **The Principle of Economic Forestry**

was that every tree should be cut as soon as it had attained maturity, and that another should replace it. The Opposition had shown no intelligent grasp of the situation. On April 4, 1894, they introduced a resolution to strike out the appropriation for salary and disbursements of the Clerk of Forestry, on the ground that the office should be discontinued. On April 10th, 1895, they again opposed the vote, but on a totally different ground. Mr. Howland moved that it should be struck out,—“the same being inadequate for any useful purpose in that behalf.” Messrs. Whitney and Miscampbell, who the year before had voted for the abolition of the office as being unnecessary, stultified themselves by also supporting the latter motion, which admitted

the utility of the office and declared the expenditure insufficient. It was just the same vague, shuffling, contradictory attitude which they exhibited throughout. The Opposition had no policy in regard to our timber; they appeared to be moved by the caprices of the moment, which seemed to promise embarrassment to the Government which was seeking to carry out a definite policy in the interests of our timber industry and resources, and consequently in the interests of the Province.

The Forestry problem was a problem no longer. It had been satisfactorily solved. A policy had been inaugurated which insured to the Province a permanent revenue, and to the industry and commerce of the future a perpetual source of timber supply.

#### **An Impudent Claim.**

The claim, which in the light of the facts, he would present, was nothing less than impudent, had been frequently made by the Opposition leaders that the policy of requiring all lumber to be manufactured in Canada, originated with them, and that the Government in inserting a clause to this effect in timber licenses in accordance with the act of 1898, had stolen their policy. They had charged furthermore that the course of the Government had been inconsistent and fluctuating. The Government policy had been regulated by the requirements of the situation, which had varied from time to time, according to our relations with the United States — the country which furnished the chief foreign market for our lumber. It was not a question of abstract principle but purely one of commercial expediency. The aim of the Government had been to do what was best for the interests of Ontario un-

der existing conditions regulating access to the United States markets.

Under the Reciprocity Treaty Canadian lumber was freely admitted to the American market, and everything was satisfactory. In 1866 that treaty was abrogated, and a duty of 20 per cent. ad valorem imposed on lumber, Canada, in turn, placing an export duty of \$1 per 1000 feet B.M. on saw logs. A severer blow was inflicted on the lumber trade in 1872 when the American Government imposed a specific duty of \$2 per 1000 feet on manufactured lumber, without regard to its quality. The result was to shut out the lower grades which could no longer be profitably exported. The home market for these being limited, much rough cull lumber was wasted. The cost of lumbering was increased, wasteful and destructive methods were encouraged and profits seriously reduced.

During a period of many years following, the question was left in the hands of the Dominion Government as pertaining to trade and commerce. The lumber trade was only one of many interests affected by hostile American legislation. Efforts were made from time to time to obtain either a renewal of the Reciprocity Treaty or freer trade relations. There was no question then of requiring saw logs to be sawn in Canada, as

#### **There was no Exportation of Logs**

to the United States. This practice did not develop until 1886, when the export of logs from the north shore of Lake Huron was brought to the notice of the Government. Although the shipments were but small, the Government took action. By an act passed in that year the export duty was increased to \$2 per thousand, and the Governor-in-Council authorized to increase it to \$3 if it

was deemed expedient. This was done by Order-in-Council in 1888. In view, however, of a probable arrangement with the United States for a reduction of the duties on sawn lumber, the export duty on logs was again reduced to \$2 on July 5th, 1889, followed by its final abolition during the following year. In the five years from 1886 to 1890, the Dominion Government, (Conservative) dealt with the question five different times. Downer had been universally recognized as the proper authority to deal with the questions at issue, owing to the general desire to obtain better trade relations with the United States, and the importance of the lumber regulations as an element in the negotiations. And the Ontario Government of Sir Oliver Mowat, and the Dominion Government of Sir John Macdonald always evidently regarded and dealt with this very important matter as if they were of one opinion, and there never had been any dispute between the two Governments on this point. Sir Oliver Mowat, naturally left the matter with the Dominion, which had the jurisdiction in international negotiations, to be used as a lever to secure more favourable trade relations with the United States.

#### **The Manufacturing Condition Imposed.**

At this stage, before any conclusion had been reached, the Ontario Government held a timber sale in 1890. As the territory offered for sale included a large area from which shipments could easily be made to the United States, the Ontario Government deeming such action in harmony with the policy of the Dominion, and altogether expedient under the then existing conditions, inserted a condition in the terms of sale

requiring the logs to be sawn in Canada.

Shortly afterwards the long desired understanding with the United States was reached. In reply to a question in the House of Commons, Sir John Macdonald stated that in the event of the United States Congress reducing the import duty on sawn lumber to \$1 per 1000 feet, the Canadian Government would remove the export duty on saw logs. This information was conveyed to the American Government. The United States import duty was reduced to \$1 and the Dominion Government reciprocated by removing the export duty.

#### **An Impracticable Suggestion.**

So far there had been no agitation for any Provincial action. Mr. Meredith had suggested that in future sales a condition of manufacture in the country should be inserted — but the agreement reached with the United States essentially changed the situation. It had secured the prosperity of the lumbering interest. It had enlarged the market for lumber and augmented the profits of the trade. To make it a condition of future sales, would have re-opened the whole question, and incurred the danger of losing the advantages already secured. The United States would have regarded such action as contrary to the spirit of the understanding arrived at, and a breach of good faith. There would have been an immediate danger of the reimposition of the old duty, or a higher one, which would have paralyzed the lumber trade, or brought on a financial crisis.

These considerations, coupled with the fact that only a small portion of the timber region affected presented opportunities for the shipment of logs to the United States, amply jus-



tified the Government in omitting the manufacturing clause in connection with the timber sale held in 1892.

#### **The Result Proved the Wisdom**

of this determination. Out of the 633 miles sold, only 78 miles were purchased by Americans, from which no logs were exported. The entire quantity of logs shipped across the line from the Territory did not exceed 5,000,000 feet, yet, if the Opposition leader's suggestion had then been followed, the Government, to save this trifling loss, would have plunged the whole lumber trade into confusion, endangered the satisfactory understanding arrived at with the Washington Government, and effectually blocked the way to any further concessions.

During the session of 1893, a motion was introduced by Mr. Miscampbell, M.P.P., for East Simcoe, as follows:

"That all the words after 'that' be struck out, and the following substituted: 'This House disapproves of the policy of disposing of the timber reserves of the Province without its approval being first obtained, and is of the opinion that the right to cut timber upon the present reserves should be sold under such conditions as will ensure the manufacture of lumber cut therefrom within the Province, and more effectually guard against the unnecessary cutting and destruction of small timber growing in such reserves.'"

#### **The Fallacy of the Resolution.**

This resolution, being moved on going into Committee of Supply, could not be amended. It embodied two distinct propositions which had nothing to do with each other. The Government could not in any case accept the first of these, requiring a previous vote of the Legislature before timber could be sold. Forest fires often rendered it necessary to dispose promptly of damaged timber to prevent great loss, which might result while waiting months or a year for a sitting of the House. The wording of the clause relating to the manufacture of lumber was objectionable even if the Government had been disposed at that time to accept the general principle. By

confining the manufacture of lumber to the "Province"—"within the Province," it would have prevented Quebec mill owners buying and operating limits in Ontario. The motion in such a form did not commend itself to the House, and was defeated by a majority of 21.

During the campaign of 1894 the policy of the Government was clearly defined in a pamphlet reviewing the situation as follows:

"The policy of the Government as to the question of imposing manufacturing conditions has been and is, that while the question of admitting Canadian lumber to the American market free of duty, is before the Congress of the United States, it would be advisable, and possibly disastrous, to impose manufacturing conditions upon them..... It will be time enough to consider what the policy should be in the future, after we have seen what action the American Congress takes on this very vital and important matter. The Government are open to deal with the question in the manner best suited to the public wants."

#### **The People Approved.**

The question was thoroughly discussed before the electors, and the popular verdict sustained the administration. Shortly afterwards the passage of the Wilson Bill through the United States Congress removed the remaining import duty on lumber, and the Canadian Manufacturer secured free access to the American market. Free lumber removed the incentive to the exportation of saw logs. The lumber trade of Ontario received a great stimulus. Both the coarse and fine grades of lumber, were exported, production was cheapened, waste lessened and the industry enjoyed a high degree of prosperity.

But with the advent of the Republican party to power, in 1897, came a complete change. The Dingley Bill, embodying a highly protectionist tariff, was enacted. The import duty on sawn lumber was placed at \$2.00 per 1000 feet, and a clause was added providing that in case an export duty on logs was imposed by Canada, or any other country, an equal amount would be

added to the United States import duty on lumber. This drastic act tended directly to encourage the transfer of lumber manufacturing from Ontario to the United States, and the consequent shipment of saw-logs across the border. Moreover, the operation of the automatic clause, raising the import duty to the extent of the export duty which might be imposed by the Dominion on logs, made it impossible for the Dominion to deal effectively with the situation. A resort to an export duty would simply have closed the American market against us entirely, and have paralyzed the Canadian export lumber trade with the United States.

#### Action Became Imperative.

It became clearly the duty of the Ontario Government to grapple with the problem. Accordingly, after a full consideration of the arguments on both sides of the case, the Liberal Government laid down the principle that all future sales of limits should contain a condition requiring all the lumber cut to be sawn "in Canada," not "within the Province," as the Opposition resolutions demanded, and that with the issuing of the yearly licenses after April 30th, 1898, the timber on all limits, no matter when sold, would also be required to be sawn in this country. This policy met with the approval of the Legislature, and was embodied in the Act of 1898.

The policy of the Government has been judicious, clear and consistent throughout. While there was a reasonable expectation of securing, by agreement, such favourable legislation by the United States, as would admit Canadian lumber either free or under a moderate duty to their markets, the Ontario Government, realizing that the broader question of the reciprocal concessions affecting the general trade relations of the two countries, naturally fell within the scope and functions of the Dominion, refrained from action calculated to hamper their negotiations. When an important advantage had been gained by the understanding arrived at in 1890 they refused to disturb and unsettle a favourable situation to secure a petty advantage. But as soon as the hostile character of American Legislation had made

it evident that all hope of favourable conditions in the nature of reciprocity were at an end, and the terms of the U.S. tariff law placed it beyond the power of the Dominion to give relief by an export duty, and conditions were created injurious to the interests of the Province, the Liberal Government took effective action to secure the manufacture of lumber in Canada, as promptly as it could be done with a due regard to vested interests and existing obligations.

#### Political and Business Policies Contrasted.

The Opposition policy—if it can be dignified by the name, has been vague, erratic and ill-considered, embodied in disconnected claptrap utterances, without regard to the changing conditions, special exigencies and broader issues involved. The Opposition sought party advantage, the Government acted throughout with the object of protecting and promoting the interests of the Province, as represented by its timber resources and lumbering industry.

Thus it would be seen that the claim of the Opposition that the Government stole their saw log policy, is absolutely without foundation, and that the Government pursued the only course open to them in the public interest. Their action was not playing a game of politics. Their acts were the acts of business men, feeling the full responsibility of their position, and knowing that they were dealing with what was the most important industry in the province. These statements were facts, as the records show, and he (Mr. Stratton) would leave it with the audience to say if the course of the Government had not been wise and prudent under all conditions. (Hear, hear.)

#### The Sum of the Matter.

In reviewing the course of the Government as to our timber interests, Mr. Stratton pointed out that the Government had exercised the utmost care in regard to their promotion. Forest Reserves had been created to preserve standing timber, and permit of the growth of a new crop. A system had been adopted to prevent or to reduce to a minimum the loss or danger of loss by forest fires. When the time was

ripe the Government took action in compelling the home manufacture of lumber from Crown Lands, and the time for action was so chosen as not to inflict more injury on the lumbering industry than the injury resulting from the export of logs.

#### **Good Value for Our Timber.**

Not only these, but the Government had so managed the sales of our timber, that they had secured the best possible value, and therefore, Mr. Stratton said, he wished to give an illustration which might serve as an object lesson respecting the more profitable management of Ontario's timber interests. The total bonuses received by the Government of the Province of Quebec from the year 1843 down to and including 1900—a period of nearly sixty years—for the whole of the Upper Ottawa district (the very best white pine region in Canada) amounting to 21,520 square miles, was \$418,804.98.

In contrast compare one sale in the Province of Ontario. In the Ontario Timber Berth sales of 1892, when only 618 square miles were sold, they brought \$2,308,475, or an average of \$3,700 per square mile, while the average price per mile obtained by Quebec from the sale of what might be called gilt-edged white pine timber berths was only \$19.10.

To widen the contrast, another example might be given. One berth of eleven and three-quarter square miles was sold by the Ontario Government for \$205,625, or \$17,500 per square mile, a sum nearly

#### **A Thousand Times Greater**

than Quebec got per square mile, or, in other words, at this sale the Ontario Government got a sum for 11 3-4 miles nearly half as large as the Quebec Government got for an area nearly 2000 times greater, or 21,520 square miles of the finest white pine timber in the world. (Applause.)

Another contrast. The Ontario Government sold one berth in the Township of Morgan, of 35 1-4 square miles for \$376,650, or nearly as much as Quebec got for 21,520 square miles of the best pine in the world.

In the sale of 1892 the Ontario Government sold only the pine, reserving the spruce, cedar, tamarac and all other woods, while the Que-

bec Government sold every tree of all kinds.

The Crown dues on the timber at the Ontario Government sale of 1892 were \$1.25 per 1,000 feet, board measure, and the Quebec Crown dues are \$1.30 per 1,000 feet, or 5c more.

The Province of Ontario has no favourites to bestow timber limits on, at less than a cent per square mile, for at the timber sale in the Township of Morgan in 1892, the 35 1-4 acres which were sold for \$376,650 were held by the purchasers for seven years and then sold for \$250,000, thus showing that the Government of Ontario gets the highest available price. (Applause.)

#### **Our Pulpwood Interests.**

As an integral part of their Timber policy the Government dealt with our splendid pulpwood resources, and the same carefulness was exercised, the same policy pursued, of preserving them, realizing their value and making them an element in contributing to the Provincial revenue, promoting industrial enterprise, furnishing employment and promoting settlement. Mr. Stratton pointed out that our pulpwood resources were of such great extent and magnitude that at the price now charged by the Government, 40 cents per cord, there was sufficient Pulpwood, 288 million cords, to yield a provincial revenue of millions of dollars to help carry on the administration of provincial affairs, and to postpone the visit of the Opposition bogey of direct taxation a century. (Applause.) The Government had granted six pulp concessions. These concessions, which had been so blindly opposed and denounced by Mr. Whitney and the Opposition, gave only the right to cut pulpwood, they gave no right to the land, they did not interfere with the rights of the settler, or prevent the Government from locating settlers on the area granted for cutting, and securing to them all the rights that settlers had in other parts of the province. The working out of these pulp concessions required, as a condition of the grant, the expenditure of millions of dollars in erecting factories, and required the employment of hundreds of workmen. The supply of the machinery, water wheels, etc., for these concerns would give employ-

ment to the workmen in our factories; settlers, who entered the country in the vicinity of the pulp manufacturing, would have a market for the pulpwood on their lands, and a source of income till their farms were sufficiently cleared to be productive. If these considerations did not justify the Government in granting these concessions, the danger of the destruction by fire of the wood on our pulpwood lands, in part, at least, supplied one. Then pulpwood reproduced itself in from fifteen to twenty years, so that in a district which had been cut over, with proper care, the process could be repeated, and we thus would have a perpetual source of pulpwood supply and revenue. The policy of the Government was to go forward and to

#### Utilise Our Natural Resources.

to the utmost, before they might be swept out of existence by fire, or become lessened in value, by a cessation of the demand for them in the markets of the world. (Applause.)

Incidental to this, and for promoting expansion and settlement, the Railway Policy of the Government was adopted, and was being applied. Reference was made to the land grants to the Algoma Central and Manitoulin & North Shore Railways. It was pointed out how effective these would be in opening up and developing New Ontario, and helping old Ontario, by placing it in direct railway communication with the great resources of Northern Ontario. In respect of these development railways, a want of policy, lack of enterprise and failure to grasp a great problem, was shown by the Opposition. Mr. Whitney, the leader of the Opposition had denounced the land grants to the Algoma Central Railway in language of vitriolic violence. He called it a "phenomenal steal," and voted against it. Yet a few months later, when a land grant more liberal, and amounting to a greater "steal" in Mr. Whitney's view, than the first land grant, was proposed by the Government, that gentleman choked down his wrath and approved of the second land grant. If he had acted in the first place on principle, he would have opposed the second grant, for the principle did not change. But he seemed to act only upon expediency.

He had no policy, except that of opposing and embarrassing the Government, and his change of attitude was due, not so much perhaps to conviction, as to his having made a mistake. His first opposition was doubtless influenced by the hope that he could embarrass the Government by making the first land grant unpopular, but he found public opinion against him, and even some of his own supporters, and he changed front.

#### A New Departure.

The Government had made a new departure, and had already made considerable progress in locating surveys of a railway to be built as a Government work, from North Bay or Mattawa northward to tap the fertile Temiscaming region, where the splendid soil was already attracting settlement, which would be much facilitated by the opening and operation of this railway. The Government was bound to go ahead; we had a magnificent country, worth developing, and we must move forward in the great work. We must build up in the magnificent north of this province a greater Ontario. We had the material there, and we must make use of it, and the policy of the Government was steadily directed to the development of this great heritage, for in building up, developing, settling and improving New Ontario, great resources would contribute to revenue, and in the process, the older portions of the province would also be advanced and benefitted.

The election of Mr. Anderson would be one element in retaining in power a Government which had faith in Ontario, and had the will, the courage and the ability to inaugurate and apply a policy of development which would make its future incomparably greater than its splendid present. (Applause.)

#### In Conclusion.

Mr. Stratton then dealt briefly with several points. Mr. Whitney made a great deal of electoral irregularities, but only those in which he considered his opponents were concerned. But he had never for one moment condemned the political corruption practiced by his own party, and by which he had profitted as a leader. No condemnation was made by him of the flagrant bribery prac-

tised in the Conservative interest in South Ontario, nor of the systematic destruction of ballots in the election of '96, and figures were presented to show that in four ridings alone in that contest, where the Conservatives had the appointment of election officials, there were nearly a thousand spoiled ballots—917 — while in the same ridings in the elections of 1900, when the Liberals had the appointment of election officials, there were only 132 spoiled ballots. Was it to be inferred that under Liberal rule the people had become so much more intelligent as only to mis-mark and spoil a few ballots, or was it to be inferred that in the election of 1896 there was a scheme to deface and prevent the counting of ballots cast by Liberals? This Mr. Whitney did not condemn, but on the other hand it appeared that he raised a cry of election irregularities against

Liberals to cover up the iniquities of his own party. After referring to Mr. Whitney's non-committal attitude on education, and to his unfounded onslaught on Ontario school books, which were cheaper and better than those of any other country. Mr Stratton appealed to the electors present to study the unsurpassed record of the Government, their present progressive policy, and to weigh their fitness for satisfactorily administering the affairs of this province, and if they did so, dispassionately and without prejudice, he had not the slightest fear that their ballots would be cast for Mr. Anderson, the capable candidate of the Liberal party, supporting the Liberal Government of Ontario. (Loud applause.)

The highly successful meeting closed with the usual cheers.



